

1 history. Today, I look back and I realize that it was
2 the best decision we made. Today, we are homeowners,
3 we live in a fine neighborhood, and my wife had twins
4 and all the medical bills were covered by our health
5 plan.

6 The twins are now four years old, and in
7 March we will mark our eighth year in this area. I
8 know I would never have been able to accomplish any of
9 this in the Big Apple, everything that I have
10 accomplished in Atlantic City.

11 Thank you.

12 MS. BRENNER: My name is Devon Brenner. I
13 work for -- Bally Park Place.

14 I came to Atlantic City in the summer of
15 1972, for what was to be a long vacation. Within two
16 months I met my husband to be and my temporary visit
17 turned into 25 years.

18 I worked as a food server in various
19 restaurants around town, mostly in the spring and
20 summer, since during the winter the city was virtually
21 deserted and employment in the restaurant business was
22 not available.

1 My husband has been a union painter, a
2 member of Local 277, for 26 years. I became a member
3 of Local 54 in 1977. Our first Christmas together, my
4 husband gave me a pair of bedroom slippers and I
5 reciprocated with a Barbara Streisand album. It was
6 all we could afford.

7 My husband was very lucky if he was able to
8 find work in his trade for three months out of the
9 year, not enough to collect unemployment. My own
10 unemployment compensation was \$23.00 to \$28.00 a week.
11 The unemployment office, by virtue of the endless
12 lines during those years, offered ample proof of the
13 continuing decay of a dying city. Even during the hot
14 summer months the current number of visitors was
15 hardly what one could call spectacular.

16 After the start of the building of the
17 casinos in 1978, things mercifully began to change.
18 I started work at Park Place in November of 1979. The
19 next year we were able to put a down payment on the
20 home that we still live in. In the fall of 1981,
21 while crossing Pacific Avenue on my way to work, I was
22 run down by an ambulance. I was on foot.

1 The driver and his assistant graciously
2 took me to Atlantic City Medical Center, where I spent
3 the next 5-1/2 weeks undergoing two surgeries, which
4 resulted in a plate and ten screws in my right leg.
5 That plate will go with me to my grave.

6 Had it not been for my union health
7 insurance, which covered all my hospital expenses and
8 my doctor bills, which needless to say were
9 astronomical, we surely would have been bankrupt.

10 Through employment offered by the casinos,
11 we now own outright our own home, plus a second rental
12 property, and there are two cars and a truck in our
13 garage, also free and clear.

14 None of these amenities, indeed, a secure
15 and comfortable life style, would have been possible
16 if casino gambling had not come to Atlantic City.

17 MS. MANNS: My name is Taria Manns, and I'm
18 a native of Atlantic City. I am currently employed by
19 the Atlantic City Hilton, where I've worked in the
20 capacity as a cocktail server for the past seven
21 years. I am a union shop steward and maintain a
22 position on the Grievance Committee, and I've been a